



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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## **DTSC Approves Closure Plan for West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill**

**SACRAMENTO---** The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control today announced its approval of a Closure / Post Closure Plan for the West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill located at the west end of Parr Boulevard in Richmond. The Closure Plan outlines steps to be taken to close the Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF) and the Post Closure Plan describes the steps necessary to monitor and maintain the facility after closure. The plan was approved after DTSC staff considered and responded to public comments made during a 90-day public comment period. Work is anticipated to start in June 2000.

The 350-acre Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, began accepting waste in 1953 under a land use permit issued by the county and a subsequent county permit in 1960. Both permits placed minimal restrictions on the handling of solid wastes. Neither permit addressed the disposal of hazardous wastes. The landfill stopped accepting hazardous wastes in 1985. When in operation, the landfill consisted of two separate areas: the HWMF, and the Municipal Solid Waste Area. The approved Closure Plan addresses only the HWMF portion of the landfill. The municipal waste area will be addressed in a separate Closure / Post Closure Plan.

The HWMF portion of the landfill consists of 28 acres. It had three major areas:

- (1) 9.5 acre surface impoundment - used for storage and evaporation of liquid hazardous waste,
- (2) 5-acre runoff / retention basin - used as a retention basin and a holding pond for rainwater, and
- (3) 11.5 acre solid hazardous waste landfill. The remaining two acres were used for drainage facilities.

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Under the approved closure plan, the HWMF will be closed with the hazardous waste left in place and the entire HWMF would be sealed with a cover. The closure plan also includes the following components:

- ▶ An underground slurry wall, surrounding the HWMF, to prevent contaminated water from migrating outward to adjacent areas
- ▶ A leachate collection and removal system for recovering leachate
- ▶ A subgrade fill area (beneath the engineered cover) consisting of municipal solid wastes
- ▶ A gas monitoring and collection system installed beneath the final engineered cover to monitor, collect and treat any hazardous gas from the landfill.

DTSC approved the use of municipal solid waste for the subgrade fill material. Municipal solid waste is residential and commercial waste and mixed demolition debris. However, only materials determined by DTSC to be acceptable will be used as subgrade fill at the HWMF.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which did not identify any adverse impacts associated with the closure plan that could not be mitigated to less than significant levels was also approved.

Besides the Closure Plan, the Post Closure Plan and the EIR, DTSC also approved the establishment of two Corrective Action Management Units (CAMU) for the site. The CAMU(s) authorizes a specific location on the site that may be used for onsite treatment and permanent storage of hazardous waste generated during the implementation of the closure plan. The two CAMUs authorized for the landfill are within the boundaries of the HWMF.

Under the plan:

CAMU (1) would be approximately one acre in size and after being lined with a leachate control bottom liner, would receive waste residues generated by the leachate treatment system. All waste placed in the CAMU (1) would be first put into containers and covered before finally being capped.

CAMU (2) will consist of two evaporation ponds in the area that were previously used for surface impoundments. Both ponds will be used to treat (evaporation) from the leachate treatment system. CAMU (2) will be constructed during the post-closure period.

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***DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.***